12 April 1975

Dear Harold:

Many thanks for the copy of O'Toole's book, The Assassination Tapes. If you really don't need it, we would like to keep it, as it turns out to be considerably more of a book than I had visualized, well written and quite possibly a team effort. I haven't read it yet, only dipped into it here and there, but have seen enough to agree with your opinion that it serves company interests, and effectively.

I found Robert Kaiser's article in the latest issue of Rolling Stone, and picked up an extra for you which is enclosed. There's also a piece by Groden, and one by Jerry Policoff on Belin.

By the way, could you use the first two volumes of Congressional Quarterly's "Watergate, Chronology of a Crisis"? We've been using the first two volumes all along -- they're quite helpful in looking up dates and texts etc, although on the whole it's a poor assembly job in many ways, badly organized but still the only thing of its kind. They recently combined the third volume with the first two (charging $35 for the single massive volume, and since there was no other way to get the third volume we bit and plunked down the dough.) So we have the first two volumes surplus. They take events through April 30, 1974. If you'd like, we'd be glad indeed to send them along. Book post is very little, and we'd like very much for these to wind up with someone who actually could use them. Do say.

I like your Conning Tower piece, and think it's short enough to make it with the NY Times' Op Ed Page. Its editor is Charlotte Curtis. I think she might go for it. I understand this is a first draft. You do need to go over it again and smooth it out a bit. There are a few places where a smoother transition between ideas -- a word added here and there to make where you're going a bit clearer -- would help. But otherwise I think they might go for it. Good luck.

Suppose you watched Ford address Congress Thursday night. Seemed here he upped his ante for military aid so much that he guaranteed a turn down, which must mean this is what he intended to do. So also must Kissinger have intended it. We both feel there's a good chance that a lot of the razzle-dazzle going on, including the babylift, is meant to get Henry off the hook somehow.

Got to copy another Hoppe column for you.

Best,

jdw

P.S. -- Also curious whether Phelan is a Times staffer. Can't tell from the byline and credit line. If I get any clue I'll say.